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15 May 1958

AECANDIOT

1. "AECANDIOT (true name: Boris LEVITSKY) is a Ukrainian emigre, a journalist in Munich, and an intelligence whore, who has been working for and against virtually all intelligence services in central and western Europe, including the BND. Subject was in frequent and close touch with another Ukrainian emigre in Munich in whom he confided in detail: ABEAPELIN, MOB's oldest agent, who had been shared with the BND for about five years." (Above from [ ] 7 November 1955.)

2. In the course of his confidences to ABEAPELIN, Subject reported a contact made in Munich on 1 and 3 July 1955 with an RIS courier (subsequently identified as Ule LAMBERT, born 15 April 1926 in Essen) who requested ABEANDIOT to make a meeting (6 August 1955) in East or West Berlin (at ABEANDIOT's discretion) with LAMBERT's RIS superiors. LAMBERT indicated that he had been sent to Subject by request of Zygmund OSMANCHIK. ABEANDIOT refused the meetings in Berlin, but suggested Geneva as an alternative since he was going there in August, anyway, to cover the Geneva Conferences as a journalist.

3. At Geneva, in conjunction with his journalistic coverage of the Conferences, ABEANDIOT also acted as an intelligence agent for von MENDE of Dusseldorf, "presumably for UJ-DUSEK, the 'pure German' offshoot of the BND which is supposed to be kept secret from us." In addition to contact with several FIS agents under journalist cover, Subject met with East Berlin Soviet Consul, Ivan KUKHIN. KUKHIN made a collaboration pitch, promising to furnish ABEANDIOT with "extremely valuable information" which he could sell to Western intelligence services at a high price. KUKHIN also promised to "repatriate" Subject and wife in exchange for ABEANDIOT's journalistic efforts to convince emigres in the West to return to the homeland. KUKHIN further stated that the East Berlin Committee for the Return to the Homeland only desired to repatriate "emigre intelligentsia" who were able to travel within the USSR delivering lectures regarding the virtues of Soviet life. Upon being reassured by OSMANCHIK that he had sent LAMBERT, ABEANDIOT made the decision to travel to West Berlin on 6 August 1955 for another meeting with the RIS.

4. The 6 August meeting at the West Berlin Aquarium was with LAMBERT, who indicated the meeting the next day, same place, would be with two of his RIS superiors, names unknown. On 7 August ABEANDIOT met with "A" and "B" and was given the following missions: Determine which emigre group collaborates

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with which intelligence service and what emigre personalities were active in this work. He would serve as chief editor of the Ukrainian newspaper "ZA POVOBAT NA BAT'KIVSHCHINU" which the East Berlin Committee planned to initiate; AECANDIOT would remain in Munich and transmit materials regarding the collaboration of personalities and groups with Western intelligence. Another meeting was set for 27 August in Vienna.

5. When AECANDIOT informed AECAPKELIN of the forthcoming meeting in Vienna, he entrusted AECAPKELIN with various confidential papers, among which was a list of some 70 (variously reported as 74, 76 and 79) Western intelligence, including CIA, agent identifications. AECANDIOT was aided in the compilation of this list by Volodymyr SKUTYBIDA, a close AECANDIOT co-worker since 1954 and suspected AECANDIOT RIS contact and/or courier. These papers were photographed by MOB.

6. At the 27 August meeting in Vienna, AECANDIOT again met with RIS man "A," who in turn introduced him to his "Chief." The "Chief" informed Subject that the RIS would provide him with varied information (unspecified) which he could use in reports for the Bonn Foreign Office in order to establish him in their eyes. He was given the following missions: Report regarding the activities of the West German Foreign Office and all its subordinate departments, including the Dusseldorf German Office for Stateless Foreigners. Emphasis was to be placed on Eastern European policy of these offices. Report regarding all facets, activities and personalities, etc., of the Ukrainian emigre groups, stressing their relationship with various intelligence groups and seeking out Soviet sympathisers among the emigration. A fourth meeting was set for 22 October at the West Berlin Aquarium.

7. In view of the suspicion that AECANDIOT intended to pass the list of Western intelligence agents, SR decided that he should be picked up in Berlin in the act of passing the list. The pickup was effected by the GCIS on 22 October, but, unfortunately, before the list was physically passed. Both AECANDIOT and the courier, Ulf LAMBERT, were arrested. LAMBERT used legitimate documents in his true identity, although he employed an obvious cover story by declaring he had met with AECANDIOT purely to receive information to aid him in writing a doctoral thesis for an architectural degree. AECANDIOT confessed a few hours after arrest he initialed the interviewer's notes. He wrote a second confession on 23 October, initialed and acknowledged before a GCIS officer. He later repudiated these confessions, claiming that he had been physically mistreated. BOB stated this was untrue.

8. While AECANDIOT and LAMBERT were incarcerated in Berlin, POB and MOB staffers, posing as OSI, entered AECANDIOT's apartment on 24 October with help from the Munich police. Among the documents found in AECANDIOT's apartment were S/W materials and instructions, Polish money, accommodation addresses for the Italian IS; two West German documents for an unidentified person

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in different names; and a photocopy of a military field manual (restricted) on which it was stated that reproduction was prohibited under espionage laws. MOB felt that on the basis of material found in Subject's apartment, AECAPPELLIN was not compromised nor had he passed any information that would involve him in AECANDIOT's various intelligence activities.

9. On 15 November 1955, Headquarters sent the following comments to the Field: "Based on information available at Headquarters, including the fact of AECANDIOT's confession, we do not believe he became an RIB agent in behalf of any service, but solely on his own decision. He may have told [ ] and others of his contact with the Soviets in general, but we do not believe he sought or obtained approval by any Western official to work as an RIB agent. We recognize (that) certain SPD, French, British, Emigre and other elements (are) concerned and embarrassed over their involvement with him and that some of these elements will try to aid him out of pure self-defense psychology. We are not particularly concerned and desire every possible CIA contribution to successful prosecution consistent with our desire to maintain AECAPPELLIN as a continuing source."

10. Meanwhile, the German judicial mill ground slowly, with definite indications that the SG (Sicherungsgruppe) was attempting to whitewash AECANDIOT and nullify his two confessions. Financial aid, as well as verbal protests, came to AECANDIOT from journalistic, governmental and emigre quarters. Finally, on 27 March 1956, the BND informed FOB that AECANDIOT had been released from custody on that date for lack of evidence, and that LAMBERT (who had never confessed his role as RIB courier) was to be exchanged in Berlin for Werner HAASE, an ex-BND agent. The final SG statement regarding the AECANDIOT case was: "AECANDIOT's contact with the Russians had prior coordination with von MENDE's office and other Bonn agencies." LAMBERT was released in Berlin on 29 March, but HAASE was not returned.

11. A cable from the field, dated 12 April 1956, stated that von MENDE, the SPD-Ost and DIE BRUECKE had re-engaged AECANDIOT and that others were planning to re-engage him.

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